Hooghly Estuary involves capital dredging, measures to improve flood flow conditions, construction of shore disposal terminal and trimming of Nayachara Island.

(b) and (c) Calcutta Port Trust has terminated the contract of the Dutch contractor and has initiated legal action in the Calcutta High Court to encash the Bank Guarantees furnished by the Contractor.

महिला कैदियों का शोषण

*219. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा** : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय देश में कुल कितनी महिलाएं जेलों में बन्द हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार को पुलिस और जेल के अधिकारियों द्वारा इन महिला कैदियों का शारीरिक शोषण किए जाने के बारे में कोई शिकायत प्राप्त हुई है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

गृह मंत्री (श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त) : (क) देश में महिला कैदियों की कुल संख्या 31.12.1995 की स्थिति के अनुसार 6285 है।

(ख) और (ग) चूंकि "जेल" राज्य का विषय है, इसलिए यह राज्य सरकारों का काम है कि वे जेल प्रशासन से संबंधित किसी भी मामले को सुसंगत नियमों, विनियमों तथा जेल मैन्यूल के उपबंधों के अनुसार निपटाएं। भारत सरकार द्वारा प्राप्त कोई भी शिकायत उचित कार्रवाई हेतु राज्य सरकारों को भेज दी जाती है। इस मंत्रालय में उल्लिखित प्रकार की कोई भी विशिष्ट शिकायत प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।

Discussion on Uttarakhand Issue

*220. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH :
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government recently have held discussions with the leaders of parties and protagonists of Uttarakhand on the issue of creation of a separate State of Uttarakhand ;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (c) Discussions have been held with political leaders and protagonists of Uttarakhand on various demands made by them which include, *inter alia*, creation of a separate State of Uttarakhand. Based on these discussions, the Government is examining various alternatives for arriving at an acceptable solution.

Reviewing India's Nuclear Policy

1034. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the National Herald dated the 2nd April, 1996, exposing the secret history of extensive Chinese-Pakistani nuclear collaboration and revealing that Pakistan was in a position to make plutonium to manufacture nuclear bomb within a short time; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the nuclear policy to match with Pak-nuclear advancement towards nuclear weapons; in the conext of security perceptions in the region?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The security situation of India is constantly under review, particularly in the light of developments in the neighbourhood and Government will take all necessary measures designed to cope with and threat that may be posed to the security of the nation.

Development of Agni and Prithvi Missiles

1035. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether reported deloyment of nuclear Chinese M-11 missiles by Pakistan on the border, has increased the threat to security of the country;

(b) if so, whether keeping in view of this, Government have decided to speed up the development of Agni and Prithvi missiles;

(c) if so, whether any concrete programme of action regarding deployment of Agni and Prithvi missiles has taken up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) The Government keeps a close watch on all developments affecting India's security. Threat perceptions are continuously reviewed and appropriate steps taken to safeguard India's security and integrity.

In order to equip India with the state-of-the-art missiles and to counter any possible threat from the neighbouring countries. Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has been entrusted with the task of developing various missiles through Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). The design and development work on the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme is progressing as per schedule.

It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose any further details in the matter.

वस्त्र-सिलाई उद्योग में विदेशी पूंजी निवेश

1036. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार वस्त्र-सिलाई उद्योग में विदेशी निवेश को प्रोत्साहन देने हेतु वर्तमान नियमों और उप-नियमों में परिवर्तन करने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या इससे स्वदेशी वस्त्र-सिलाई उद्योग पर प्रभाव पड़ने की संभावना है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है और वस्त्र-सिलाई उद्योग में विदेशी निवेश प्राप्त करने हेतु सरकार का लक्ष्य क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री आर. एल. जालप्पा): (क) से (ग) औद्योगिक नीति में निहित विभिन्न नीति-परक कार्यवाही तथा सरकार द्वारा घोषित आर्थिक उदारीकरण के अन्य उपायों का उद्देश्य अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ परिधान उद्योग सहित भारतीय उद्योग को अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय रूप से प्रतियोगी बनाना तथा विदेशी निवेशकों को भारत में निवेश करने के लिए प्रेरित करना है। इस उद्देश्य की पूर्ति के लिए सरकार अन्य कारकों के साथ-साथ विदेशी निवेशकों की विभिन्न श्रेणियों तथा किस्मों, विभिन्न क्षेत्रों आदि के नीतिगत ढांचे की निरन्तर पुनरीक्षा करती है ताकि इसे निवेशकों के लिए अधिक अनुकूल बनाया जा सके।

Setting up Independent agency for providing administrative justice to defence personnel

1037. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an independent agency for providing administrative justice to the defence personnel on the lines of the Central Administrative Tribunal;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background;

(c) whether the proposed agency will have its benches at different places in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government also propose to review provisions of the Army Act for "Liberalised Justice"; and

(f) if so, the details thereof with background?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government.

(e) and (f) The review of provisions of the Army Act is an ongoing process and is taken up from to time to time with a view to keeping these provisions at par with the judicial thinking of the time and in consonance with the Army discipline.

Ministerial Talks with Bangladesh

1038. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Foreign Secretary had recently met the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in Dhaka;